

41

T H E
Monstrous devourer,
O R
The Great Feeder.

Being a true and perfect Relation of a man that travels about *Farnham* and *Guilford* in the County of *Surrey*, which does report he came from *Wiltshire*, and all the way he has traveld feeds only upon **Horses**, **Dogs** and **Cats**, and the Intels and Offel of **Bullocks**, **Sheep** **Hogs** and **Calves**, also the manner how he eats them all raw, as they be taken out of the **Beasts**, and cannot be satisfied. With the manner how he came to be so at first, by taking upon him in a presuming manne to fast.

With a warning for all people to amend their lives by this heavy Judgement that is laid upon this poor creature.

V Written at the City of *Chester* in *Sussex*, by *L. W.*
the 26 of April, 1675.

L O N D O N

Printed for the Author, 1675.

ve
bo
ey
ju
w
w

m
je
h
fa
fi
C
m
m
b
v
e
p
h
d



The Monstrous Devourer.

TO tell you of the baseness of man in excessible and wicked Feasting, and sarfeiting of drunkenness, I suppose there are too many that be so guilty of it, that when they come to be told of it, and is reproved, will stand in a presuming manner, and vindicate themselves against both Law and reason, but let such men know, that there is an all-seeing eye of the most high and mighty God, that will one day bring them all to judgement, both old and young, rich and poor, the greatest Emperour as well as the poor beggar, and then happy will it be for them that has done well, and improved their Talent that God had trusted them with.

But cursed and miserable will he be that took no care on his poor immortal soul, that is he I mean which has spent his dayes in feasting and juncatering, sporting with bawls and wicked women, gaming and drinking has ruined and consumed many a good Estate, therefore miserable and sad will the ends of such men be both in this world and that to come, as we find it recorded in the 25th. chap. of St. *Matthew* and the 34th. Verses. *Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdome prepared for ye, for I was an hungry and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, naked and ye clothed me, sick and in Prison and you visited me:* and our blessed Saviour makes it plain, the meaning of that Parable in the 40. verse of the aforesaid chap. which is thus, to the man that God hath indued with great riches, and every one according to their ability relieves their poor brethren in any time of want and poverty, tis a good improvement of his Talent, and layes up his Riches in heaven, but it is otherwise with the wicked and covetous man, that lays up his treasure till it rust, and eve-

every penny he parts from to the poor, comes from him like so many drops of blood, and never considers that God requires much of him that has much, and he that has such plenty, is but Steward for the poor; but like *Diogenes*, whip the poor from his door, therefore in the 41 verse is that dreadful sentence pronounced, *Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels*, so read it to the end of the Chapter.

But now for to come to my intended matter, a thing that some will hardly believe, because it is so strange, but be whom thou wilt, wise or simple be assured it is as true as you look in the book when you read it. And thus it is: There is a man that wanders up and down the Countreyes which has no aboad as I can understand, nor has not had these two or three years, but the last place of his dwelling was at *Rankle* near *Salisbury-Plain* near to the *Devizes* a Corporation that is in *Wiltshire*, this he reports himself but ask him the next day where he lives and he saies from *Pool* in *Dorsetshire*, and ask him another time, he tells ye from some other place. So he tells ye several places, which makes some conclude he is Distracted, but I conceive he is otherwise, for he shall give ye a civil answer to any question you shall propound unto him, only I think he is in fear of being sent home to the place where he was born, which if such a thing should be, he saies he should be starv'd to death, and in truth I am almost in his mind, for if it be a poor Village, or small Town, they be not able to keep him, he is such a great devourer, for *Mallet* was no more comparable to him than a child of a year old to a hungry Plowman. For this fellow eats all that ever comes nigh unto him, intrels of Beasts, Bullocks, Calves, Sheep, Hogs, or any other garbage he can come at, and never stands to wash it, but devours it as it comes from the cattle, with the dung in it, without picking or cleansing little or much, and as he travels along between town and town, if he lights of any dead horse by the way, that has been dead three or four dayes, he will not leave it, till he has devoured it all, and lyes every night out of doors, and all the shelter he finds is in a Church Porch, if he comes where any be, for no body will give him shelter about their house, for fear he should rise in the night and destroy the cattle, but if any charitable minded people do shelter him in their out-houses, they set a watch over him, and so turns him away in the morning, thus doth this poor miserable wretch wander up and down, he came to *Farnham* in *Surrey* some nine miles off *Guildford*, where on *Thursday* being Market day

the people flockt and gathered about him, hearing by some that see him upon the Road, that he was coming, so when he came he askt for the Butchers Market, for he was an hungry, so they told him, where coming he fell to his old trade of begging for sheeps guts, or other Offel, which was presently fetcht, a Bullocks intrels, and the Maw with the dung in it, which he most greedily devoured, till the dung run down his clothes to the amasement of all the People, making some sick to see him, after that devoured, he had the interels of several sheep, which he devoured also before many hundreds; and after that a Gentleman standing by, seeing him so greedy, shewed him a good fat Calf, which was judged to be worth twenty shillings, and upwards, asked him how many meales he would make of that Calf, if he should buy it and give it him to eat, he answered he was in fear he should not be troubled with it, how do you know said the Gentleman, why says this Monstrous feeder, if you will give it me, I will eate it all up at two meals, nay if you pay for it and give it me, I'll eat it up now at one meal, and he did so, and it was judged he had eaten just before the interels of a Bullock, and four or five sheep, besides other food that was brought him out of their houses, and three or four Gallons of drink, but as he drinks, it runs all from him as he stands, so that he stinks no body is able to endure him. From thence he goes to *Culford*, and there he devoured all the Sheeps heads and Offel that came near him, but at last one in the Town takes and puts him in the Castle, and so makes a show of him at their Fair, on *St. Georg's* day, the 23 of *April*, 1675. where a power of people gave money to see this miserable spectacle, but was satisfied with the certainty of the Relation which went on him, when they see how inhumane, and like a Ravenous Wolf he eate such carren that was brought unto him, for he will eate Dogs and Cats whole without their skins, never taking their guts out, but in the basest and filthiest manner, which makes all people sick that sees him, and give him a Barrel of Beer hee'l devour it in a small time, and yet it never stays with him, nor his food neither: for as I told ye before he stinks no body can endure to stay long by him. These and a great many more could I relate on this man, but they be odious, they be not fit here to be mentioned.

There-

Therefore I come to tell you the reasons and causes of this fellow's being so, as I can understand by himself, as no body knows else as I hear yet, he reports that he has been a Taylor by trade, and how he turned to be a Quaker, and he presumed to try if he could fast forty dayes and nights, as our Blessed Saviour Christ did, but had not fasted three dayes but a Spirit came to him and told him that he should eat and never be satisfied for the space of seven years, this he reports in some Towns where he has been, in other places he tells the people that he has been a husbandman, and had saved thirty pounds together, but he falling out of work fell to despair, and would try how long he could fast to save his money, and then the Spirit entred into him, and will not let him be filled, which I hold to be most likelyest, for I think he feeds the Devil besides himself, for there is not four Bears at the Bare-garden on the Bankside, can devour so much offil and garbidge at one time, as this fellow shall, I have heard indeed of men that could eat a shoulder of Mutton a six penny loaf, and a Gallon of drink at a meal, but this man will make nothing of a sheep at his breakfast, I have heard tell of a man in King *James*'s Raige, that would devour as much as ten men, all the year long if he could come at it, but this is he that would devour their meat men and all if he might, I have heard of *Mallet* the Lawyer, that Monster of a man, that ate 2 Gammons of Bacon and a 12 penny loaf for his breakfast, and then plead a Cause for his dinner, nay I know a fellow that will cut a toast round a Peck Loaf 3 inches deep, and put into a bowl of drink 3. or 4. quarts, and eat it with a pound of cheese, and his wife and children may sink at his foot before he'll give them a bit, but this fellow far out passes all these as I have named, for he has confessed he has eaten a whole horse in a day and a halfe time, and what is the cause of it, no Physitian in the whole countrey where he has been yet can tell, only about the Rimm of his belly, is a kind of a blew bunch and that is supposed to be the place where the spirit lyes, as he and some others do declare.

But people may chat and say what they please, but I look upon it to be a heavy judgement that is laid upon this poor creature, for we sinners to amend our Lives, and not to follow Gluttony and Drunkenness, but use those creatures that God has made for the use of man, in a good and moderate way, neither abusing our selves nor them neither, for how
many

is there in this Kingdome that eats and drinks so excessively, that they are fain to gore it up again; and how many hundreds of poor people be there would be glad of that which they abuse, nay like so many Swine that returns to the wallowing in the mire, do they return to their gluttony and drunkenness: but would men now consider in this their day of the heavy judgements as is recorded in Scripture for those sins, I do believe they would cry out as that wise King did, after he had found all the pleasures of the world what they were, he cryed out *Vanity of Vanity, all is vanity*. So having no more, but to desire all people where this poor fellow shall come, which is the subject of this discourse, not to mock and deride him, but look on him with an eye of pity and charity, since it is the Lords good pleasure to lay this judgement on him: for shall I tell ye, there is no man whatever can tel, what affliction the Lord is minded to lay upon him, if he sees men presume and glory in their sins, as there be too many to my knowledge, that when they swear and you tell them of it, in a damnd presuming manner they swear the faster.

So many women tells their husbands of drinking and keeping of bad company, why, some be so void of grace, that they tell them, they will do it though it be to their ruine, and I fear there are too many that find it so, to the undoing of Soul and body, *then will they call for Rocks and Mountains to hide and cover them from the presence of the Lord,*

But happy is he that waits with patience, and is contented with all crosses, sicknesses, and calamities that this wicked world affords, and is dayly travelling to the heavenly Jerusalem, to which place the Lord in his mercy bring us all, Amen,

F I N I S.

TH-0